

The Heterodyne

Newsletter of the West Valley Amateur Radio Association

September Meeting

George Williams, N6NKT:
NCDXC Elmer Project

Victor Bubbett KG6MAQ:
Ham Radio at Coe State Park

Wednesday, September 13
Meeting Starts at 7pm

Meeting Location:
American Red Cross,
Silicon Valley Chapter
2731 N. First Street at Plumeria Dr
(southwest corner) in San Jose

WVARA Repeaters (W6PIY)		
Band	Frequency	PL
6 Meters	52.580- MHz	151.4 Hz
2 Meters	147.39+ MHz	151.4 Hz
1.25 Meters	223.96- MHz	156.7 Hz
0.70 Meter	441.35+ MHz	88.5 Hz
0.23 Meter	1286.2- MHz	100 Hz

Club Net

WVARA's club net is on the W6PIY repeaters each Tuesday at 8:30 pm. All repeaters are linked together during the net. The net script can be found at www.wvara.org/net.html.

Visitors Are Welcome!

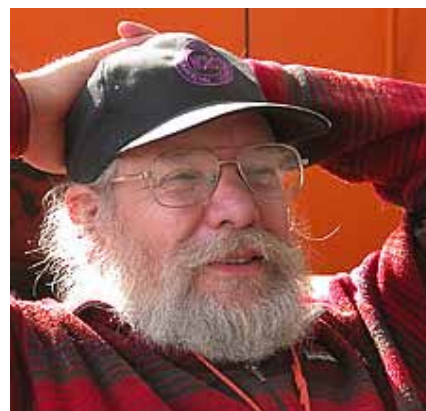
President's Letter

Things I Learned from Chasing the Eclipse

Last month, my entire family; my wife Peri (KI6SLX), sons Jeff and Ethan (KI6NVN), daughter-in-law Cortney, and grandson Karl watched the eclipse together. We settled on going to Wyoming because it was likely that the seeing conditions would be good -- the normal weather pattern in summer in Wyoming is clear mornings with possible thunder storms forming after 2:00 PM. The eclipse was scheduled for late morning.

Jeff, who lives in Colorado Springs, did the bulk of the organization, providing the food and renting a lodge in the Medicine Bow mountains -- we were much too late for anything in the totality zone. From the lodge it would be about a 3 hour drive to the totality zone. Ethan, Cortney, and Karl would stay with us for the eclipse and then go directly to Yellowstone and Teton National Parks, while Jeff, Peri and I returned to the lodge.

We wanted to avoid the crowds in Casper, which had gained the reputation of "the place to



be” because it was in the middle of the totality zone. We thought there would be too many people and it might be hard to find a good viewing spot.

We ended up on a gravel road well west of Casper which was in the middle of the totality zone. The coordinates were 42°59’8” N and 107°42’44” W (DN62dx46). We were far from the only people who picked that area, there were groups of people in camps set up off the road every 200 to 400 meters along the road.

As an afterthought, since seeing the eclipse was the primary goal with everything else secondary, I set up my KX3 with a 40M portable antenna. Unfortunately, the highest supports available for the antenna was sage brushes raising the antenna to a mighty one foot off the ground. I called CQ a few times using 12 WPM CW, hoping to get into the reverse beacon network but I did not get any kind of response. It’s the only time I have called CQ not wanting a response.

Well, we saw the eclipse, and it was as amazing as our best expectations. Don’t miss one if you have the chance. The reverse beacon network never recorded my CQs, although it does have a record of some of my PSK activity from New Hampshire back in May.

On the way back to our lodge, we were in a massive traffic jam starting 4 miles before our route joined one of the routes south out of Casper. I also noticed that I could not get cell phone connectivity in places where I had it going north before the eclipse. I attribute the problem to the much larger number of cars, and phones, in this rural location overloading the cell towers.

When we got close to Interstate 80, I got connectivity and was able to describe the traffic jam via text messages to Cortney who was on her way to Yellowstone. I tried to include a photo of the traffic, but it didn’t go through. In fact, it didn’t go through until the next afternoon. (Note that our Lodge doesn’t have cell phone coverage, so we had to go into Laramie to get good enough cell service for it to be sent.)

Lessons learned:

- 40 meter band antennas don’t work really well at one foot from the ground.
- When cell service is flakey, text messages work. Sometimes nothing else does.
- Our planning to avoid crowds and find a good location was spot on.
- Eclipses are like sports. The real traffic jams occur after it is over, not before.

73 Bill AE6JV

Meeting Topics - September 13

This month’s meeting is at 7pm on Wed, Sep 13 at the Red Cross building. We will be lucky enough to have two speakers for about 20 minutes each:

- **George Williams, N6NKT** will talk to us about the NCDXC Elmer project (<http://www.ncdxc.org/pages/elmer.html>), what it is, and how it could help (or be helped) by each of you. With the new faces that have joined in recently, we should be reminded to take the time to give back to the hobby some of what we have gotten out of it.
- **Victor Bubbett, KG6MAQ** will talk to us about how Coe State Park uses amateur radio for some of their activities. You may recall Steve Stearns’ talk on VHF propagation and the use of Radio Mobile for link planning. The example he was using was his planning for a Coe State Park event. Victor is a uniformed volunteer for the park, and pretty much drives all the amateur radio events,

including the Backpackers Weekend, Hunting Hollow Run, and others. He enlists the aid of people like Steve to make these events successful, organizes them, and makes sure the event has good communications in areas that don't normally have it.

Meeting Location: Meeting Room 5 at the Silicon Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross, 2731 N. First Street at Plumeria Drive (southwest corner) in San Jose. Most of us come in through the side entrance on the southwest side of the building — look for our red WVARA sign on the side where they park all the Red Cross trucks. Cookies will be served, and of course visitors are welcome!

If you haven't been to the Red Cross, "talk-in" is usually available on the Association's repeaters. Best choice would be 2m/220.

We'll also be meeting up at 6pm at Dish-n-Dash on 1st and Trimble for some grub before the show.

See you there!

Bobby, K0XI

August BBQ Photos by Jim K6EI





Don's Antenna Tower

Don Apte, AA6TV is leaving the area and would like to dispose of his antenna tower. The tower is a 3 section crank up. There are some issues with the crank up mechanism. The bottom section is 24' long. The next section is a little shorter and the innermost section is probably just over 23'.

Don may be contacted at 408-891-0842 or aa6tv at yahoo dot com
4285 Kirk Rd, San Jose, CA 95124





The Northern California DX Club wants to help you get on the air on the HF Bands

Registrations Are Now Being Taken for All Classes

- Class descriptions are now posted on the NCDXC web site for each class. You can register for as many classes as you wish.
- To access them go to ncdxc.org and click on the Elmer Project tab. At the bottom of the page describing the Project is a red **register button** taking you to our Registration Page.
- There you may enter your name and contact information, read a brief description of any class and choose those that you wish to take. Dates and times for the classes are also shown.
- Class descriptions are available to read without signing up for any classes.
- The instructors name and email address is available so that you may contact him or her.
- Classes begin on September 23 and are absolutely free.
- Addition information may be found in an article in the October 2017 issue of QST Magazine or by coming to our talk on Saturday, October 21 at 1 pm at Pacificon.
- Classes are arranged in three tracks.
- After a couple of fun, introductory classes on the joys and benefits of HF operation there are 6 Track 1 classes designed to help prepare the General class license exam.
- Track 2 covers basic HF operating and includes classes on equipment selection, station building and HF operating techniques.
- Track III covers more advanced topics such as advanced SSB, CW and digital mode operation, antennas, propagation and equipment specifications.
- Classes are taught using two methods
- Four classes are taught by the Elmer in his shack. The Elmer has no fixed program but will be ready to answer any questions you may have and walk you through a difficult topic. He can also demonstrate and let you try various facets of HF operation. The instructor will contact you, using your sign in information, to set up a mutually agreeable time for the class. These One on One classes carry on the ham radio Elmering tradition.
- The remaining 17 classes are taught using Power Point slides delivered by WebEx. No special software is required and WebEx works with Windows, Mac OS and Linux. When you sign up for a class you will receive a Welcome Message from the instructor containing simple instructions on how to log in to WebEx. You can see the slides and hear the instructor and he or she can hear you.
- When in a Power Point class please MUTE YOUR MICROPHONE to avoid background noise disturbing other participants.
- NCDXC members have invested many hundreds of hours putting the Elmering Project together. Our goal is to get you on the HF bands making QSOs. Our instructors have many years of experience in their topics. We will do our very best to make the classes fun and interesting. There are no dumb questions. We want you to succeed!
- Just go to ncdxc.org and click the Elmer Project tab to get started!

Microwave Update 2017 - Oct 26-29 - Registration is Open

On Line Registration is now open for both the conference and for hotel rooms. Sign up today!

To register, simply go to www.microwaveupdate.org and click on the **Registration** tab. Registration price includes two days of presentations, conference proceedings book and CD, two lunches, a banquet dinner and drawings for door prizes. We will also have vendor exhibits, a test lab, indoor and outdoor swap meets and a surplus tour.

We have a reserved block of 50 discounted hotel rooms at the conference hotel. Room price includes a breakfast buffet, WiFi and parking, and SJC (San Jose, CA) airport shuttle when available. For more info and to register for a room, please go to the **Hotel** tab. The deadline for discounts is Oct 12th, but the rooms may run out before then... it's first come, first served.

MUD 2017 is October 26-29 in Santa Clara, California

Microwave Update 2017 will be held on October 26-29, 2017 in Santa Clara, California (Silicon Valley / San Francisco Bay Area). The MUD conference is dedicated to microwave equipment design, construction, and operation. It is focused on, but not limited to, amateur radio on the microwave bands. Since 1985, this annual conference, targeted at microwave radio enthusiasts, generally has attendance of about 100 Amateur Radio Operators from around the world.

For more information on the conference, please check out www.microwaveupdate.org or email questions to mud2017.info@gmail.com

Please forward this announcement to any other mail lists and clubs that you may belong to.

Call for Papers

The MUD 2017 program committee is now calling for papers and presentations on the technical and operational aspects of microwave amateur radio communications. Tell us about your latest project, design or operating adventures. The technical program will take place Friday and Saturday, October 27 and 28, 2017, in Santa Clara, California.

Please click on the >> **Call for Papers** << link at www.microwaveupdate.org (or the **Content** tab) to learn how to submit your paper and presentation. Surely you have something new and exciting to share this year! **Submissions are due in the first week of September, but please send a short**

email to mud2017.papers@gmail.com sooner with a proposal. Don't wait until the beginning of September to let us know what you're planning!

Presentations selected for the technical program may be given in person or by proxy. We encourage presenters to submit a companion paper for publication in the proceedings book. See the website for more info. Papers may be submitted even if there will not be a presentation, with the same publication deadlines. Short papers (1 or 2 pages) are welcome, in addition to full length. Survey papers that summarize current know-how and tutorials that help and encourage newcomers are also welcome.

Suggested topics include:

- * Centimeter, millimeter, submillimeter and light wavelengths
- * Antenna and feed design, simulation, construction, measurement, application
- * Microwave building blocks (LNAs, PAs, LO chains, Mixers, Synthesizers, Filters, etc)
- * Transverters (single and multiband)
- * Software defined radios
- * Fixed station, Rover and Beacon design, packaging and operation
- * EME, Satellite and Earth station design and operation
- * Operating techniques, software and other aids
- * Weak signal propagation modes and enhancements
- * Digital modes for weak signals or data communications
- * CAD tools (preferably free or low cost) for circuit, antenna, path and system simulation and design
- * Homebrew designs with modern commercial components
- * Construction techniques (SMT, wirebond, microstrip, waveguide, substrates, homebrew)
- * Conversion of surplus microwave equipment
- * Test equipment and techniques (low cost, modern or surplus)
- * Or – suggest your own topic

WVARA Net Check-Ins (W6PIY)					
Tuesdays at 8:30 PM					
Call Sign	Name	08/15/17	08/22/17	08/29/17	09/05/17
Total		16	15	13	15
AE6JV	Bill			X	X
AF6AE	Bill	X	X		X
AG6YO	Kevin			X	
K0FRG	Bob		X	X	X
K6BIB	Bogdan		X		
K6SCC	Brian	X	X		
KE6KRR	Brian	X			
KE6RRU	Dan		X		
KF6EMB	Svend	X			
KI6SLX	Peri			X	X
KJ6CQJ	Dean	X			
KJ6GMO	Sue	X			
KJ6ZZI	Michael	X	X	X	X
KK6VF	Kevin	NET	NET	NET	NET
KK6ZCT	Steve			X	
KM6ABF	Scott				X
KM6DAC	Cameron	X	X		
KM6GVO	Eric		X		
KM6JI	Yoon	X	X		X
KM6LHD	Michael				X
N6FYR	Matt	X	X	X	X
N9CU	Andy		X	X	X
W6ESL	Tom	X			
W6IA	Mark	X	X	X	X
W9KKN	Bill	X	X	X	X
WB6KHP	Dave	X	X	X	X
WC6YJ	Clay	X		X	X

Treasurer's Report

When I first took on this job, I was told the workload would be uneven. And that is, indeed the case. Apart from our stint running the Electronic Flea Market in July, there was no financial Activity in July or August, so there is little to report. However, the accounting for the Flea Market has changed a little from the preliminary provided in July, because the expenses for running the concession stand were taken from the till before it was counted, which represents additional income. The Flea Market Activity report at the bottom of the regular Activity Report now shows a net gain of \$1125 which is marginally over our budgeted \$1100. My thanks to Greg for organizing the DeAnza event, and to Svend for keeping the Concession on track.

We also need to improve our receipt of donations. So far, we have received \$287 this year, of a budgeted \$500. I encourage all member to donate at least \$10, which would put us over our goal. I plan to donate \$25.

Speaking of members, dues are due before the start of the new year. I encourage you to use Paypal to renew, or to bring a check or cash to the October or November Meeting.

Peri Frantz, KI6SLX
WVARA Treasurer
treasurer@wvara.org

WVARA

Statement of Activity

January through August 2017

as of
8/31/17

	Jan - Mar '17	Apr - Jun '17	Jul '17	Aug '17	TOTAL
Income					
4200 — Misc. Income	10.11	30.12	0.04	0.04	40.31
4800 — Donations	133.00	154.00	0.00	0.00	287.00
4100 — Program Income					
4150 — Flea Market Reciepts	0.00	0.00	3,764.08	0.00	3,764.08
4110 — Membership Dues					
4114 — Fam. Repeater (\$18)	72.00	18.00	0.00	0.00	90.00
4113 — Fam. Assn. (\$20)	100.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	120.00
4112 — Indiv. Repeater (12)	192.00	108.00	0.00	0.00	300.00
4111 — Indiv. Assn. (\$15)	375.00	135.00	0.00	0.00	510.00
Total 4110 — Membership Dues	739.00	281.00	0.00	0.00	1,020.00
Total 4100 — Program Income	739.00	281.00	3,764.08	0.00	4,784.08
Total Income	882.11	465.12	3,764.08	0.04	5,111.35
Expense					
5300 — Flea Market Expenses	2,400.00	0.00	239.08	0.00	2,639.08
5500 — Program Expenses					
6000 — Repeater Expenses					
6100 — Repeater Maintenance	81.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	81.07
Total 6000 — Repeater Expenses	81.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	81.07
Total 5500 — Program Expenses	81.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	81.07
5200 — Membership Expenses					
5240 — Summer Picnic	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5210 — Badges	40.00	96.00	0.00	0.00	136.00
Total 5200 — Membership Expenses	40.00	96.00	0.00	0.00	136.00
5100 — Administrative Expenses					

2017 West Valley Amateur Radio Association Board

President: Bill Frantz, AE6JV
Vice President: Bobby Barnett, K0XI
Secretary: Jon Kelley, K6WV
Treasurer: Peri Frantz, KI6SLX
Directors:
John Glass, NU6P, 2016-2017
Bill Fehring, W9KKN, 2016-2017
Dave Schultheis, WB6KHP, 2016-2017
Jim Peterson, K6EI, 2017-2018
Svend Jensen, KF6EMB, 2017-2018
Kevin Smith, KK6VF, 2017-2018

The Heterodyne is published
monthly by the West Valley Amateur
Radio Association and sent to all
club members via the web. Please
obtain permission from the author
to re-publish any article in this pub-
lication.

Club Web Page: <http://www.wvara.org>
Heterodyne Editor: Phil Verinsky, W6PK
Internet Postmaster: Phil Verinsky, W6PK
Meeting Refreshments: Kevin Smith, KK6VF
Repeater Trustee: Chuck Kamas, AD6CL
Webmaster: Larry Goodwin, KG6ENF

Speaker Committee:
John Glass, NU6P
Scott Emery, AD6RY
Jim Peterson, K6EI
Jon Kelley, K6WV
Phil Verinsky, W6PK

DX Special Interest Group:
Dennis Lyden, AG6HE

Club address:
West Valley Amateur Radio Assn
P.O. Box 6544
San Jose, CA 95150-6544